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doubt that a conception of the condition of the Hebrews on their entrance into history may be best won by a study of Arabian antiquity." If it be objected that we know the Arabs only through Islam and so cannot get at their [preislamitic] antiquity, he would reply that the earlier stages of Islam show plainly the condition from which the people had just emerged.

The book is, as stated in the title, an abridged translation of Vakidi's collection of traditions concerning Mohammed—one of the earliest Arabic histories. Wellhausen gives in the preface some account of the MSS. on which he had to rely, a justification of his system of translation, an estimate of his author and a criticism of Sprenger's Life of Mohammed. The translation begins with Anno Hegirae and gives the history of ten years. It will be thought characteristic of Mohammedanism that it is a chronicle of raids and battles in almost unintermitting sequence. The rudeness of the people is illustrated on almost every page. The light thrown upon Old Testament scenery is much less than one would expect.

H. P. SMITH.

*DIE SPRUECHE DER VAETER.**

The Mishna treatise Pirqê Abhôth has always been a favorite and has been edited a number of times. This edition differs, in several respects advantageously, from earlier ones. It endeavors to meet the wants of students and is well adapted to this end. In the first place the text is vocalized throughout, undoubtedly a great help to those accustomed to the Massoretic punctuation. Then all words not found in the Bible or whose meaning is not the same as in Biblical Hebrew are defined in the annotations when first met, and referred to in subsequent passages. A complete index of the words so defined is provided at the end of the book. Finally the cheapness of this edition contrasts favorably with the price of others, Taylor's *Sayings of the Jewish Fathers* (Cambridge University Press, 1877) for example. More information of various kinds may be got from Taylor's elaborate and scholarly book, but for practical aid to the student who wishes some knowledge of post-biblical Hebrew, Strack's is to be preferred. H. P. SMITH.

OLD TESTAMENT ETHICS VINDICATED.†

Perhaps no more difficult subject presents itself in connection with Biblical Study, than that of Old Testament Ethics. Among other qualifications which are necessary to a satisfactory discussion of the questions involved, there may be mentioned: (1) a wide and comprehensive grasp of ancient history and customs, (2) a thorough knowledge of Biblical history, (3) a marked ability as an exegete, and (4) a reasonable acquaintance with the attacks which have been made through all the centuries. The author of this volume seems to be qualified for his work, at

* DIE SPRUECHE DER VAETER; ein ethischer Mischna Traktat mit kurzer Einleitung, Anmerkungen und einem Wortregister von Lic. Dr. HERM. L. STRACK. Karlsruhe und Leipzig, 1882. Pp. 58, small 8vo.

† OLD TESTAMENT ETHICS VINDICATED, being an exposition of Old Testament Morals, a comparison of Old Testament Morals with the Morals of Heathen—so called—"Sacred Books," Religious Philosophers, and Infidel writers; and a Vindication of Old Testament Morals against Infidelity. By REV. W. A. JARREL, Published by the author, Greenville, Texas. Pp. 275. Price, $1.50.